

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, February 26, 2019

Howard Bronstein, Winton Pitcoff, and Hilary Weeks were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. The minutes of February 14, 2019 were accepted as amended.

The March 12, 2019 Special Town Meeting Warrant was signed and given to Constable Ed Morann for posting.

Appointments/Resignation

Howard moved to accept Paul Dileo's resignation from the Agricultural Commission with regret and appreciation. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved.

Howard moved to appoint Bisek Hsiao to the Agricultural Commission through June 30, 2020. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved.

MLP Update

MLP Manager Kimberly Longey described the February 26th meeting with Senator Hinds, Representative Natalie Blais, and Bill Ennen as hopeful. Plainfield's \$400,000 broadband construction funding gap was the topic of discussion. An additional \$144,000 may be awarded to Plainfield from state funds. The state has authorized a \$45 million contingency fund for last mile construction. Howard will draft follow up letters to the legislators in attendance and Carolyn Kirk a with c.c. to Bill Ennen. Plainfield is the first town organizing strategy with other towns to follow.

Winton noted the Rural Caucus is slated for next Wednesday. He mentioned contacting Fran Ryan, Daily Hampshire Gazette reporter, suggesting the possibility of a quote from Senator Hinds or Jon Gould.

Kimberly indicated an overwhelming feedback from towns people in support of the fiber optic network. The possibility of fund raising to offset the monthly cost of broadband service for those who need help was discussed.

The make ready process is almost complete and a pre-construction meeting has been scheduled for April 19th at 10:00 a.m.

FY'20 Budget/Wage and Salary Classification Study

The Board discussed salary issues with David Kramer, Finance Committee Chair. It is the Board's consensus the salary range information provided by the consultant is a useful tool for discussing and recommending salaries.

MVP Preparedness Program Grant

Draft MVP and HMP documents have been completed. A priorities list for Plainfield has also been compiled from a summary of the December meeting.

Other Business

The 2019 COA Formula Grant contract was signed.

The Board signed a letter to AARP designating Plainfield as an age friendly community at the request of Jan Gibau, Chesterfield COA and Plainfield COA Coordinator Susan Larock.

Howard signed the Commonwealth Authorized Signatory Form authorizing Dennis Thatcher to sign a grant agreement in the amount of \$1,900 for forest fire equipment.

Hilary moved to request a referendum question on the May 4, 2019 Annual Election Ballot to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued to pay for the construction and installation of the Plainfield Broadband telecommunications system. The motion, seconded by Winton, was unanimously approved. (This debt exclusion question is for the \$400,000 loan on the March 12, 2019 Special Town Meeting Warrant.)

No action on a public meeting posting requirement policy was taken pending consultation with the Town Clerk.

The Board received proposed language for an Annual Town meeting article in regards to a ten-year contract with a qualified vendor for recycling processing services.

The Board received a copy of the ZBA's decision regarding the 27 Broom Street Application.

Jon Gould, Hilltown Community Liaison for Sen. Adam Hinds, has inquired about holding office hours in Plainfield on March 27th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The COA has been asked if Jon's request might be included in the scheduled COA luncheon. Jon may spend the first hour at the Town Offices.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary